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Sur un cas d'amnésie rétro-antérograde, probablement d'origine hystérique. J. M. CHARCOT. Rev. de Méd., 1892, XII., 81.

Charcot has detailed the circumstances of a most interesting case of amnesia probably resulting from an attack of hysteria, the latter brought on by the shock of bad news. The patient has wholly lost her memory of all events occurring during the month and a half preceding the attack, while since that time she has only been able to remember for a few moments what is going on around her.

Charcot believes the case to be one of modified hysteria continued under the form of amnesia. Among other reasons for this view is the susceptibility which the patient manifests to hypnotic treatment. Under a regimen of suggestion she is slowly regaining her memory. So the case is one of dynamic origin and not at all due to lesion. If the outcome is successful, as Charcot expects, the case ought to afford much valuable — if not wholly new — material.

J. R. ANGELL.

Amnésie post-éclampsique. H. BIDON. Revue Médecin, Nov., 1891.

This is a brief and instructive account of several cases of amnesia caused by puerperal convulsions. The impairment of memory varies in degree from inability to recall isolated words up to the complete loss of all events connected with the pregnancy and even the married life with its preceding courtship. The most instructive case is of this latter type, to which Bidon has given the name of *amnésie systématisée*. The condition is by no means to be identified, he thinks, with cases of double consciousness, and he is confident that no symptoms are present to indicate either hysteria or epilepsy. His explanation has an attractive plausibility, and is in line with recent psychologic hypothesis. He assumes that during the convulsions the cerebral cells undergo, through profound circulatory disorder, such violent modification as to destroy all the more recent and so more superficial memory traces. The older and deeper traces of earlier events are consequently less affected. No lesion need be assumed.

J. R. ANGELL.

Ein Beitrag zur psychischen und suggestiven Behandlung der Neurasthenie. Von DR. FREIHERRN, von SCHRENCK-NÖTZING. Berlin, 1894, pp. 48.

Of 828 neurasthenic patients, Hösslin found psychic symptoms in 765. The stigmata of nervous asthenia are so mobile and changeable that it is hard to fix their cause. The psyche can cause disease. Psychic cases are either (a) direct concept therapeutics, (b) indirect or negative psychic treatment, and (c) marked psychotherapeutics. Somnolence is mere idioplastic passivity, according to Van Eeden, that comes by inner concentration. Of 8,705 persons, without regard to age or sex, only 519 were refractory, 4,316 hypotaxic, 2,557 became somnolent, and 1,313 somnambulatory. Out of 278 patients hypnotized by various authors, twenty-four were not helped, seventy-two recovered, eighty-two were helped, eleven relapsed. Casuistic tables presented by the author show a predominance of benefit. The enumeration of functions influenced is by far the best yet made, and shows that few functional diseases are unaffected by hypnotic suggestion.

I Problemi dell' Ipnotismo. Letture tenute all' Ateneo Trevigiano nei giorni 22 Maggio e 19 Giugno, 1892. DR. GIUSEPPE STUCCHI. Treviso, 1893, pp. 131, 12mo.

After a general and historical introduction, in which Mesmer, Faria, Braid, and later investigators are briefly referred to, Prof.

Stucchi proceeds to define and explain hypnotism, citing freely from the Nancy and the Paris schools, concluding that: (1) Women are hypnotizable in larger numbers than men; (2) youth are more hypnotizable than persons of mature age; (3) individuals habituated to passive obedience, like ex-soldiers, domestics, workmen, are more hypnotizable than persons who are independent by education and character; (4) the illiterate are more hypnotizable than those whose intelligence is cultivated; (5) those believing in the power of the experimenter are more hypnotizable than the sceptical. The author holds that the opinion of the Nancy school, that all persons are hypnotizable, is exaggerated, and that the opinion of Janet, that only those who are afflicted with nervous maladies, the hysterical, the degenerate, those who are morally or physically exhausted, are hypnotizable, is incorrect. Prof. Stucchi treats of the character of hypnosis and hypnotism, the different states and their marks, the means of producing and ending them, referring to Charcot, Bernheim, Liébeault, Beaunis, Burot, Liégeois, Ochorowicz, giving an excellent résumé. A. F. C.

V.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Psychology, Descriptive and Explanatory. A treatise of the phenomena, laws and development of human mental life. By GEORGE TRUMBULL LADD. New York, Scribner's Sons, 1894, pp. 676.

This is the seventh book and the eighth large volume put forth by the author, within the last few years, to own all of which now costs the devoted reader twenty-five dollars and fifty cents. Wundt, in a new heavy volume, fourth edition; James and Baldwin, in two volumes each; Külpe, Höfding, Dewey, Murray, Hill, Ziehen and many others; with Bascom and McCosh, perhaps, most fecund of all; new general text-books promised by Ebbinghaus and G. E. Müller, — surely in all this sudden abundance in a field where ten years ago was almost nothing, at least in English, and with all the variety of standpoint represented by these names, it seems time to call a halt, and to pray that the epoch of text-books may gradually fade into an age of special monographs in the many obscure and confused parts of this vast field. The writer of this note has now toiled through a great part of Professor Ladd's new volume, with growing marvel that he has done so much work so honestly and well. It is his best and maturest work, and contains, at least, by hint and suggestion most of the best and ripened concepts of the author's earlier works. The image of the village smith under the spreading chestnut tree, whose "brow is wet with honest sweat," etc., is the ever recurring suggestion. If there is little strikingly new, the good old story of attention, faculties, reasoning, conation, imagination, impulse, instinct, feelings, etc., is clearly and faithfully and sometimes a little exiguously told. It is safe, absolutely safe, for the pupils to whom it is dedicated, and for every one else. We do not find its chief note tediousness, as Professor James does, nor over-analysis, but its all-pervading defect, as we regard it, is timidity, over-caution and conservatism, an inability, now, alas, we fear, grown hopeless, to take the clear, consistent, scientific standpoint. He has toiled nobly on toward the new city of Man-Soul, admirably portrays many of its glories, feels their fascination often deeply, but yet more deeply feels that Diabolos, if he does not still lurk in its darker by-ways, has at least not withdrawn his rear guard, and, therefore, he and his will not cross the gulf that still